

Young artists honored by Mayor Nickels at 'Neighbor Appreciation Day' event

Young artists from neighborhoods throughout Seattle were recently honored for their colorful, creative artwork at the 2009 Neighbor Appreciation Day event held at the Rainier Community Center. More than 75 students, teachers, family and community members packed the multi-purpose room to enjoy a special pancake breakfast and awards ceremony.

Altogether 14 winners were honored, receiving certificates, cash awards, T-shirts and photos with Mayor Greg Nickels. Music by local group R-1, which plays original and inspirational songs with rhythm and blues, added to the festive celebration.

"The annual art contest is especially fun, because it gives us an opportunity to see our neighborhoods through the eyes of our kids and their artistic imagination," said Mayor Nickels.

Art teacher Taryn Piller at Thurgood Marshall Elementary Schools says that her students have been looking forward to the event for weeks. She has used the annual art contest during the past several years as part of her curriculum and to motivate students. "It's very exciting for the students to think they might win and have the opportunity to meet the Mayor," she said.

This year there were four awards categories: Crystal with a \$15 award for each student with eight recipients and two each for Bronze with a \$25 award, Silver with \$50 and Gold with \$100. The artwork for the Gold Awards were printed on Neighbor Appreciation Day cards, which featured a



Mayor Greg Nickels with Donna Amira, art specialist at Dunlap Elementary School, and her students (left to right), Thuy Luu, 4th grade, Crystal Award; Trang Tran, 3rd grade, Crystal Award; Claudia Pharr, 4th grade, Silver Award; Gerald Tolentino, 5th grade, Gold Award; Estifanos Asmare, 5th grade, Bronze Award.

'Happy Neighbor Appreciation Day' message in 10 languages and were distributed free at libraries, community centers and Neighborhood Service Centers. Gold Award winners were Gerald Tolentino, Dunlap Elementary School, and Samara Haq, West Woodland Elementary School.

In addition to the art contest awards, a half dozen City of Seattle volunteers helped to put on the Saturday event — fitting in with the City's emphasis on volunteerism in the community.

First launched in 1995, Neighbor Appreciation Day is a grassroots celebration to foster friendships and celebrate communities. It began when Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate a 'special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other.' Then Mayor Norm Rice responded by proclaiming a day to observe Neighbor Appreciation Day and the observance has grown ever since.

Inside:

The Department of Neighborhoods provides a brief update on neighborhood plan implementations. Please read inside to learn what neighborhoods and the City are accomplishing together and the many great benefits these efforts bring to our communities.

Neighborhood Plans:

An update on what we've accomplished together

A message from the director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

No matter where you go in Seattle, people are proud of their neighborhood and claim that it is the best in the city. Seattleites put down roots, organize, and commit to their community's well being and future.

The neighborhood plans were developed more than a decade ago to nurture a feeling of belonging and stewardship — to encourage community members to contribute their ideas for guiding growth in our urban villages and centers. We value this legacy of community involvement and are committed to continuing this partnership — to pursuing a collective vision.

This report gives a small window into the numerous ways the City has addressed the visions articulated in neighborhood plans. The Department of Neighborhoods assumed the role of supporting neighborhood plan progress from the original Neighborhood Planning Office in 2003. While the plans took several forms, all supported land-use changes to accommodate more housing, pedestrian-friendly streets and transportation improvements. As a result, 21 neighborhoods have adopted or are adopting their own design guidelines to ensure that new development fits with their community's existing character.

Meanwhile, our environmental work includes integrating vegetation and filtration systems into new transportation and road structures. And it was our neighborhood plans that guided the levies which have funded new libraries, library expansions and renovations, and new parks and recreation centers.

A September 2007 City Auditor's report gave the neighborhood plans high marks for addressing identified needs — many plans have met more than 60 percent of their 2024 goals. But there is still much work to do.

We have seen phenomenal growth in diverse populations, housing density, jobs and development. Though we are in a tough economy now, Seattle will rebound and resume our growth. We must plan for continued livability while looking through the lenses of inclusiveness and sustainability.

Updating our neighborhood plans presents a wonderful opportunity. Many new planning tools developed by the City in partnership with community members — such as the Bicycle Master Plan and the Urban Forestry Plan — provide us with better ways to address dynamic needs.

The Department of Neighborhoods is committed to offering everyone a voice during the neighborhood plan update process, and to bringing new people to the table who have been under-represented in planning, development and priority-setting of public resources.

We are all threads of our city's social and cultural fabric, and I look forward to helping us weave — together — many more lasting contributions to our great city.

Stella Chao



Chinatown

The following pages contain highlights of what we've accomplished in implementing our neighborhood plans. With all of the great work and many projects that are being done in our neighborhoods, this update could only feature a few, but please know that we appreciate everything you are doing to support and improve your neighborhoods.

Seattle's neighborhood plans: A tradition of community commitment

In 1995 Seattle embarked upon an effort to create vibrant, safe and healthy neighborhoods that continues today.

We knew growth was coming, and it did. During the past 10 years, the city's population increased by 50,000 people.

When we set out to write the first neighborhood plans, we asked tough questions. Where would all these people live? How would we provide them with public services, better roads and housing? How would we protect and nurture the character of our neighborhoods, and our quality of life?

The answers came from the neighborhoods themselves. Hundreds of people from all walks of life worked together to develop blueprints for how their neighborhoods would grow toward a better future. We were already thinking then about creating communities where we could work near where we live — where we could find a healthy balance of housing for moderate-wage workers, jobs, schools, public transportation and the special amenities like neighborhood farmers markets that make Seattle so special. Today, many of those visions have become realities.

The 38 neighborhood plans have helped shape our city. New homes and new jobs are being created in areas best able to handle the growth — Seattle's urban villages and centers. Each neighborhood is moving forward with its agenda to improve parks, libraries and community centers; to make it safer and more convenient to walk, bike or take the bus; and to keep their neighborhoods safe.

The success hasn't gone unnoticed. Communities across the nation and overseas are emulating Seattle's neighborhood planning process.

But the work isn't done. Looking ahead, Seattle is projected to add another 100,000 people by 2024. With that in mind, it is time to build on the success and begin updating our neighborhood plans. The updating work began in 2008 and your participation is critical.

For information, contact
Sebhat Tenna at (206) 733-9977
or email
NeighborhoodPlanning@seattle.gov

Neighborhood Planning: Our City's progress

Seattle's 38 neighborhood plans are making a difference in our lives.

Of the 2,358 projects identified in the plans, more than 87 percent have been finished or are under way. A recent survey of Seattle residents found that 93 percent said neighborhood plans had improved their communities.

The resources to carry out the neighborhood plans have come from a variety of sources, most notably from the voters themselves, who have approved the levies and bond issues that are financing the neighborhood plan projects and making our neighborhoods stronger.

Transportation

Transportation was the single biggest category of projects for many neighborhoods. Locally identified projects became critical parts of city-wide plans for transit, biking and pedestrian safety. Today, 80 percent of those neighborhood transportation projects have been built or are on the way, making it safer and more convenient to walk or bike; creating better connections among urban villages; and supporting the economic and social vitality of local business districts.

Within the past 10 years, from 1998 to 2008, we have invested more than \$11 million to improve neighborhood streets. Money for this effort has come in part from the Bridging the Gap transportation levy, approved by voters in 2006. In addition to repaving major streets, fixing bridges and building sidewalks, the levy also provides \$13.5 million over the next nine years for locally led transportation projects. General funds also contribute significantly to transportation projects. In 2007 we spent \$47 million in general funds on transportation capital improvement projects alone, which leveraged another \$20 million in state and federal grants for these projects.

Parks and community centers

Parks and community centers are at the heart of every neighborhood. Nearly all of the 277 identified parks projects have been completed or are under way. They range from brand new parks and trail and wetland restorations to restroom and ball field improvements and tennis court repairs. Voters passed the Pro-Parks Levy in 2000 to pay for many of these projects and the levy commitment leveraged an additional \$21 million in private donations and city, county and state grants to buy property for new parks.

The Seattle Center was renovated and 11 community centers were built, expanded or renovated thanks to passage of the \$72 million Community Centers and Seattle Center Levy passed in 1999.

Libraries

Libraries draw neighbors together around literacy, language and cultures. The \$196.4 million Libraries for All bond measure approved by voters in 1998 will have paid for four new library branches and the replacement, renovation or expansion of nearly every other library in the city including the Central Library which was completed in 2008.

Housing

Approved by voters in 2002, the Housing Levy is providing \$86 million over seven years to preserve and develop affordable housing for renters and first-time homebuyers. Since then, nearly 3,000 units have been created, exceeding the levy's 2,000-unit goal. Levy funding has leveraged more than \$200 million in other funding for projects and programs identified in neighborhood plans.

Other neighborhood funding programs

In addition to voter-approved levies and bond measures, our Neighborhood Matching Fund has provided \$26.5 million in City general funds since 1999 to improve parks, transportation, streetscapes and the environment. We match dollar-for-dollar the contributions of cash, volunteer time, professional services and donated materials by Seattle neighborhoods for a broad array of neighborhood-initiated projects.

Meanwhile, the Neighborhood Street Fund and Cumulative Reserve Fund provide about \$1.2 million per year in City general funds to neighborhoods for smaller parks and transportation projects recommended in neighborhood plans.

Northwest Seattle



Neighborhood Plans:

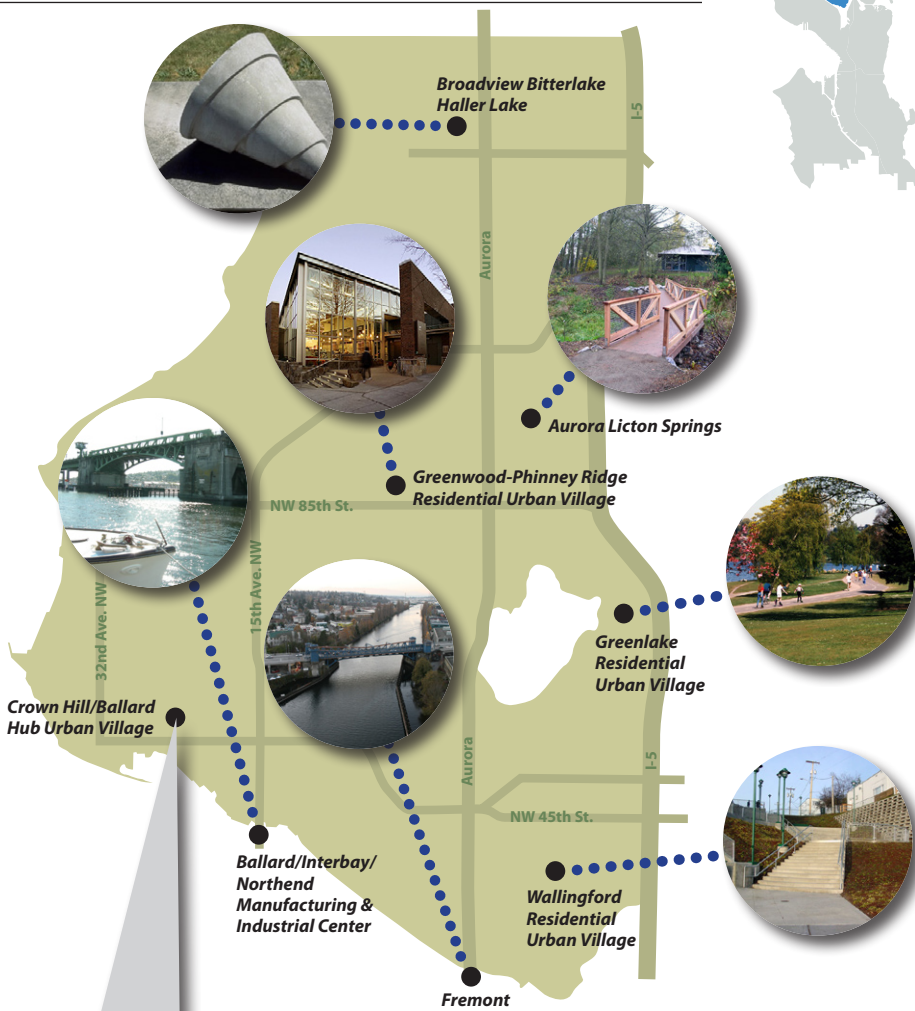
- **Aurora/Licton Springs**
- **Ballard/Interbay/Northend Manufacturing & Industrial Center (BINMIC)**
- **Broadview/Bitter Lake/Haller Lake**
- **Crown Hill/Ballard**
- **Fremont**
- **Green Lake**
- **Greenwood/Phinney**
- **Wallingford**

The eight neighborhood plans in Northwest Seattle drove the creation of new and renovated libraries; new and improved parks and open spaces; better drainage, storm water management and water quality in lakes and streams; and numerous transportation projects. These efforts have attracted private mixed-use and residential development to certain neighborhoods. This part of our city features seven urban villages and one of Seattle's two manufacturing and industrial centers.

Enhancing projects that grew from the neighborhood plans include new parks like Greenwood Park and Haller Lake's Street End Park; Wallingford Steps, which provides a pedestrian connection between Wallingford, the Burke-Gilman Trail and Gas Works Park; new segments of the Burke-Gilman Trail; and replacing the street approaches to the Fremont Bridge.

Looking ahead

The intense rate of development within some neighborhoods will mean more requests for major roadway improvements, sidewalks and other pedestrian and bicycle-friendly infrastructure. It also will require enhanced public transit, especially east-west. Those of you who live there tell us you seek stricter design guidelines to avoid "cookie-cutter" development and encourage sustainability, more incentives to developers to incorporate housing for moderate-wage workers within their projects and additional investment in community recreation and civic centers.



Special feature: Ballard Civic Center

The Ballard neighborhood plan envisioned a public place where people of all ages — from toddlers to senior citizens — would find activities and services of interest. This gathering place would also spark new private investment to create an urban village.

Working closely together, City departments coordinated design of the \$20 million Ballard Civic Center at the heart of Ballard, just north of NW Market Street.

The new library, Neighborhood Service Center and 1.5-acre Ballard Commons Park — featuring lawns, seating, a children's play area, public art, accessible sidewalks and a skate bowl — opened in 2005.

Within the four-block area around the civic center six private development projects are poised for construction and will add about 700 new housing units. Nearby, hundreds of other units are planned.



Northeast Seattle

Neighborhood Plans:

- **Lake City/North District**
- **Northgate**
- **Roosevelt**
- **University Community Urban Center - University District Northwest, Ravenna, University of Washington**

Neighborhood planning in Northeast Seattle guided major civic, business district, environmental and transportation improvement projects to create urban centers at Northgate and in the University District and urban villages at Lake City and in Roosevelt.

Major projects include the Lake City Civic Center, with an expanded library, relocated Neighborhood Service Center, new public plaza, underground parking garage and improved Albert Davis Park, and, on University Avenue, new sidewalks, street furniture, trees and pedestrian lighting from NE 50th Street south to NE Campus Parkway.

Looking ahead

Development pressure will continue in Northeast Seattle and increased density will spur calls for additional major investments in public infrastructure and amenities. Housing for moderate-wage workers and transportation choices will be major challenges, and support for residential design guidelines and business districts will be key. The site of the Roosevelt Sound Transit station has been selected and will influence development in the Roosevelt urban village area. And the recently completed Northgate Coordinated Transportation Investment Plan and soon-to-be completed Northgate Urban Design Framework will be critical in guiding planning and improvements in the Northgate Urban Center.



Thornton Creek development

Special feature: Northgate

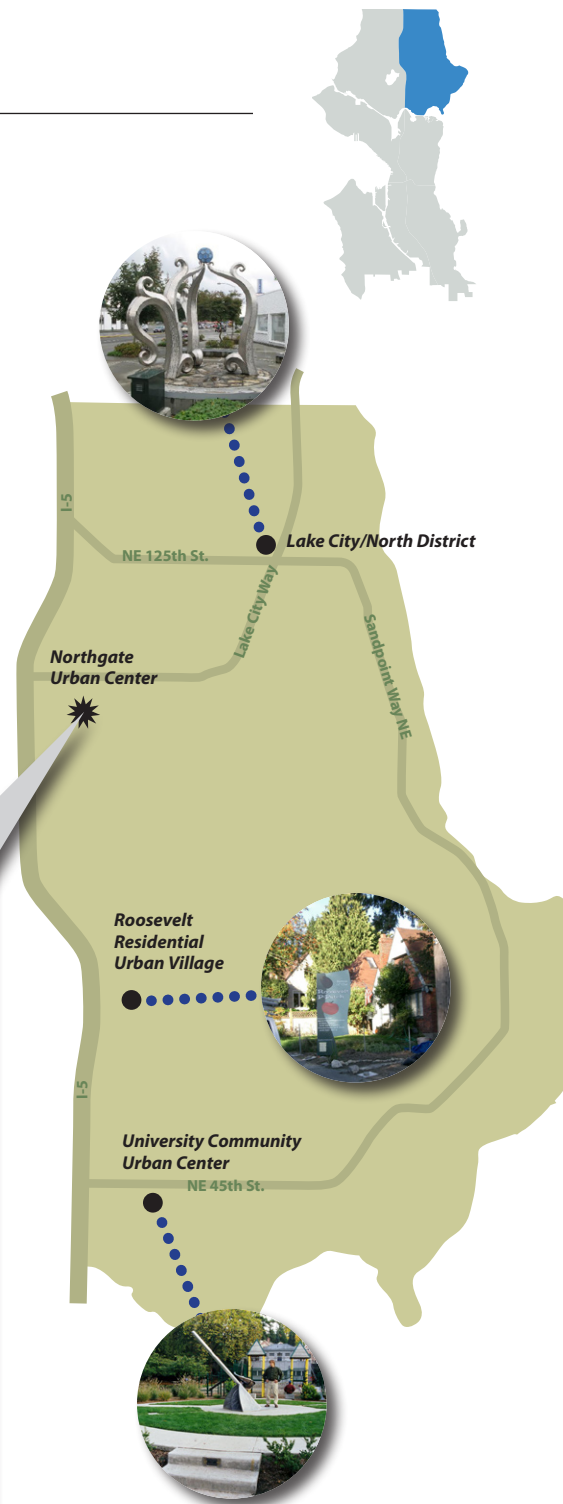
Strong collaboration of Northgate residents and the Northgate Mall owners with the City resulted in more than \$18 million in public investments at Northgate.

A new library, community center and 1.67-acre park were completed in 2006 at Fifth Avenue NE and NE 105th Street, right across the street from the Northgate Mall.

Fifth Ave. NE from Northgate Way south to NE 105th Street was improved with wider sidewalks, landscaped medians, new trees, pedestrian lighting, public art and a pedestrian promenade with an improved

crosswalk connecting the new library and community center to the mall.

The Maple Leaf Community Garden was built nearby, transforming a vacant site into a P-Patch and community gathering place. And the Thornton Place residential and retail development, which is scheduled to open soon, will feature the Thornton Creek Water Quality Channel project, which will use a natural drainage system technology to clean storm water and slow it down, allowing water to flow through the channel year-round.



West Central and Greater Downtown Seattle



Neighborhood Plans:

- **Downtown Urban Center** — *Belltown, Chinatown-International District, Commercial Core, Denny Triangle, Pioneer Square*
- **Eastlake**
- **Queen Anne/Uptown**
- **South Lake Union**

Seattle's five Downtown Urban Center neighborhood plans shared common goals around land use, landmark preservation, housing for moderate-wage workers, economic development and public safety. Noteworthy neighborhood accomplishments so far include strengthening and creating incentives for developers to build thousands of new housing units in these neighborhoods, and plans to increase usage of downtown parks by residents and tourists.

On Queen Anne, the city acquired property for four neighborhood parks, opened a new Neighborhood Service Center, and renovated the historic Carnegie Library. The community completed their neighborhood design guidelines for both Queen Anne Hill and Uptown. Eastlake projects include the new Colonnade Park under the freeway.

Looking ahead

The South Lake Union neighborhood plan was revised in 2006 to upgrade South Lake Union from an urban village to an urban center, and to anticipate 8,000 new households and 16,000 new jobs by 2024. The goals are to make the neighborhood attractive to a diverse range of households, and to make it easier for people to get around by public transit, foot, bicycle and car.

While all of the greater downtown neighborhoods anticipate and largely welcome density, the challenges are significant. How will we create and maintain a balance of housing for all income groups? How will we provide public safety; balance the nightlife scene with the residential scene; and offer schools, parks and other services to families?

Special feature: South Lake Union

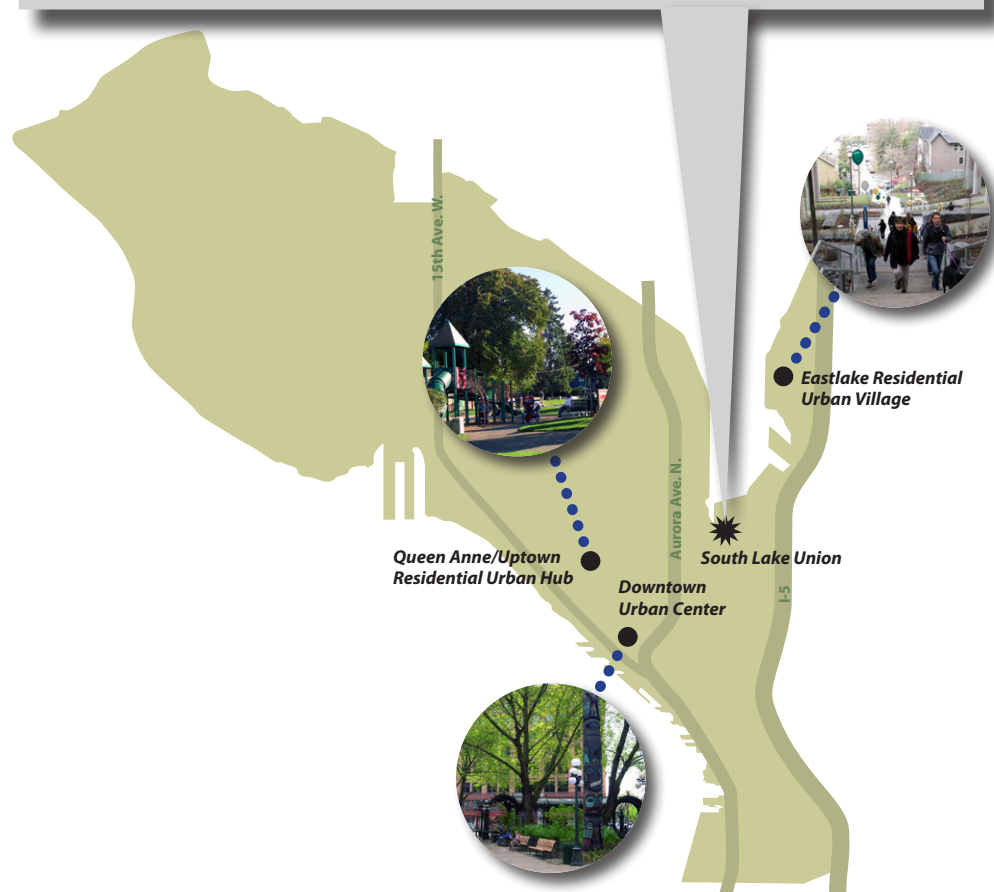
The newly renovated Lake Union Park is the centerpiece of this quickly changing community. The multi-million dollar, 12-acre park at South Lake Union will improve access to the lake with the construction of a new boardwalk and pedestrian bridge over the water. Also enhancing the user's experience will be new walking paths and a History Trail as well as restoration of the natural shoreline along the Western edge of the park. Phase I of the park was completed in 2008 and Phase II will be completed in 2010.

Transportation to and through the neighborhood as well as bike and pedestrian safety drove planning for the new Mercer Corridor. This \$190 million transportation project will widen Mercer between Fairview and Dexter avenues to make it three lanes

in each direction east and west. A narrowed "quieter" Valley Street along the south edge of Lake Union Park is also a key part of the project and of prime importance to the neighborhood. The addition of new bike lanes connecting Fairview to the popular bike commuting lanes on Dexter and the planned reconnection of Thomas and Harrison streets will greatly improve circulation and safety.



Cascade Playground



East Central Seattle



Neighborhood Plans:

- **Capitol Hill**
- **Central Area - 12th Avenue, Madison/Miller, 23rd Ave. S. and South Jackson**
- **First Hill**
- **Pike/Pine**

These neighborhoods represent some of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city. First Hill has a high concentration of health centers and higher education centers within a small geographic area, and Capitol Hill features many food, music, theater and artistic venues.

Neighborhood plans have resulted in substantial housing and business mixed-used developments along Broadway, 12th Avenue, East Madison and South Jackson. Major projects include the link light rail station at Capitol Hill; new library in the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the renovated library in the Central neighborhood; and park and public safety improvements.

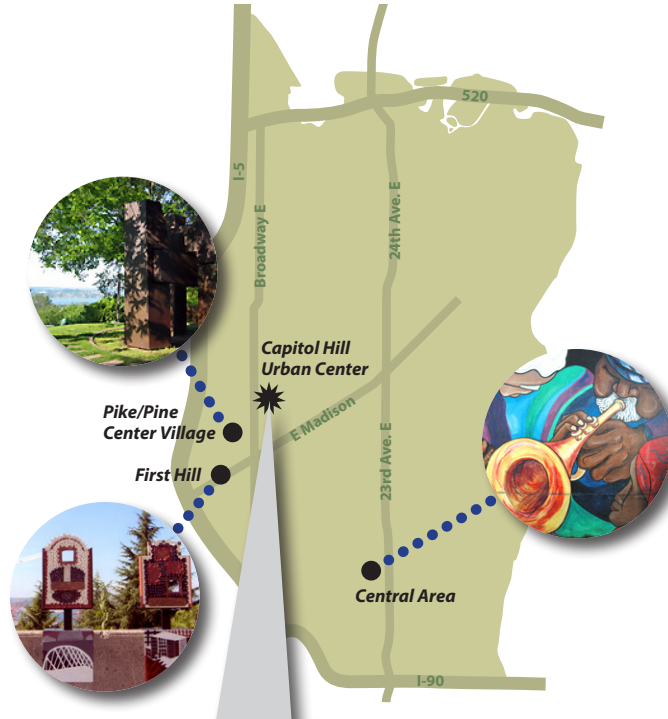
The Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan under the Capitol Hill Stewardship Council and the City of Seattle established the Broadway Economic Vitality Action Agenda 2006 - 2008. This study and strategic guidelines represented cooperative efforts by the business and residential community with the City of Seattle to manage growth and revise zoning policies along the Broadway business district to support growth.

The construction and development of Sound Transit's light rail Broadway substation is scheduled to start construction in a four-square-block area in Fall 2009.

Mixed-use projects along South Jackson Street, 12th Avenue and the East Madison Corridor have resulted in new business space and over 300 units of housing. Levy funds were used to renovate the Douglass Truth Library, which sustained its Carnegie architecture while adding a contemporary wing for the facility.

Looking ahead

These Seattle neighborhoods are all challenged by density, parking, traffic, public safety and high-priced housing. These issues will continue to be addressed as the neighborhood plans are updated. Promising efforts are already under way — a business improvement district is enhancing the quality of life along South Jackson. Central residents are asking for more housing for moderate-wage workers and affordable rents for businesses, and businesses are making a comeback along Broadway and Pike-Pine as a result of new housing and economic development projects.



Special feature: Cal Anderson Park and Lincoln Reservoir

Even before the Capitol Hill neighborhood plan was written a group called Groundswell off Broadway wanted to turn the Lincoln Reservoir area, located a couple of blocks east of Seattle Central Community College, into a park. Once a park was written into the neighborhood plan as a top priority, and the federal government required that the drinking water reservoir be covered, the Capitol Hill Stewardship Council stepped in to help.

The stewardship council and Groundswell approached everyone — City Council, Parks, Seattle Public Utilities, Police — asking for “a park for all” with activities for all, from a playground for children and chess and

movies for adults. A \$23 million package eventually emerged.

Named in memory of the late Seattle gay and human rights activist, Cal Anderson Park opened in 2005. Above and near the covered reservoir there is now grass, a fountain, a playground, soccer and baseball fields, public restrooms and a community event room that is booked day in and day out.

One of the longest-lasting neighborhood plan organizations in the city's neighborhood plan history, the Capitol Hill Stewardship Council now works with Friends of Cal Anderson Park and the Police Department to continue nurturing and protecting the park.

Southwest Seattle

Neighborhood Plans:

- **Admiral**
- **Delridge**
- **Georgetown**
- **Greater Duwamish Manufacturing & Industrial Center**
- **Morgan Junction**
- **South Park**
- **West Seattle Junction**
- **Westwood/Highland Park**

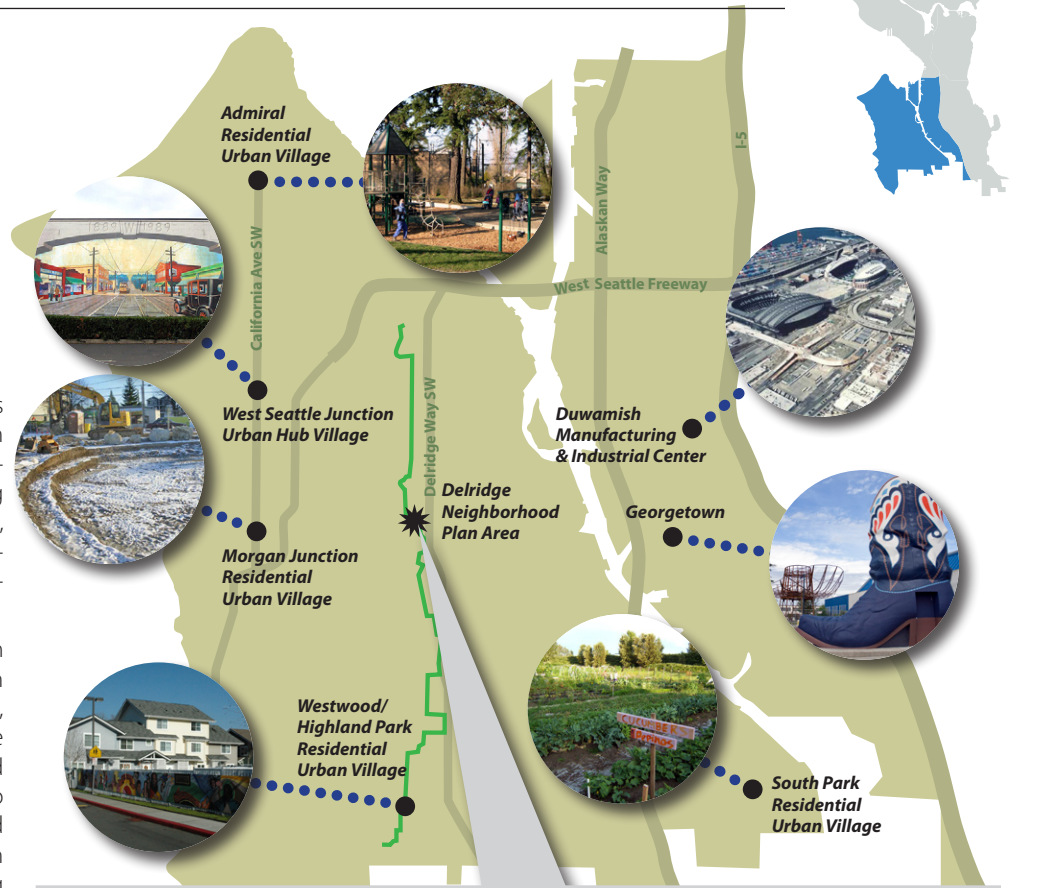
Southwest and West Seattle have tremendous diversity in population and activities, from heavy industry to commercial/retail to single-family neighborhoods. Neighborhood planning has allowed the maritime industry to thrive, launched restoration of the Duwamish watershed, and added or renovated parks, community centers, libraries and housing.

Of the eight neighborhood plans, five are urban villages. They include Admiral, Morgan Junction, West Seattle Junction, Delridge, Westwood/Highland Park. The West Seattle Junction business community expanded and California Avenue SW from the junction to the Admiral District received new streets and sidewalks. The vacant Old Cooper School in Delridge was renovated with 36 living-working studios for low-income artists and an arts and cultural center for young people.

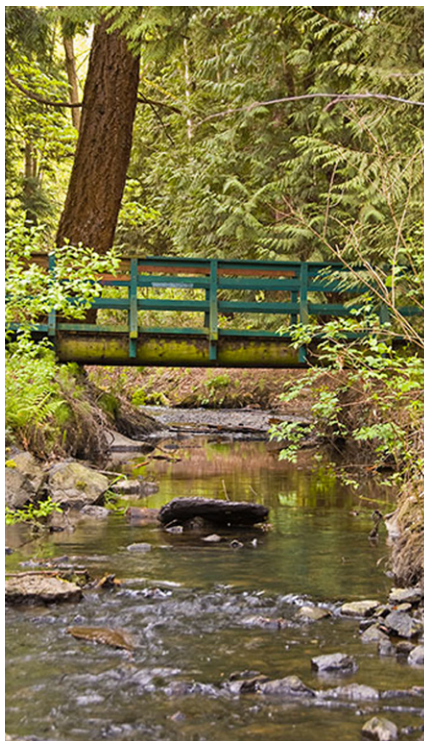
South Park community members worked closely with us to develop the South Park Action Agenda, which coordinates future neighborhood improvements. At Morgan Junction, a once overgrown hillside now has a new name — Solstice Park — and boasts sweeping views of Puget Sound.

Looking ahead

The main issues facing this part of Seattle are housing growth and housing for moderate-wage workers, family-wage jobs, human services, public safety, industrial land use and environmental protection. Replacing the viaduct will heavily affect the residents and businesses here. Many diverse stakeholders with varying interests will need our support for planning, implementation and stewardship.



Special feature: Longfellow Creek and Legacy Trail



In the southwest corner of Seattle lies Roxhill Park and a spring-fed bog that forms the headwaters of Longfellow Creek, the longest running creek in the city. As a result of the Westwood/Highland Park and Delridge neighborhood plans, a well-marked hiking trail now follows the creek from the bog northward for three miles.

The trail and creek separate now and then for the creek to travel underneath the Westwood Village mall and a new Home Depot. They come back together at Thistle Street P-Patch garden, Cottage Grove Commons and the new Dragon Fly Park just north of the West Seattle Golf Course. At this point, the creek flows into a culvert and spills into Elliott Bay.

Parks along the way were improved and the bog and sections of the creek were cleared. Beavers, ducks, hawks and foxes have returned. Community groups were formed to maintain the bog, creek and trail, and private investment spin-offs include the remodeling and expansion of Westwood Village mall.

Southeast Seattle



Neighborhood Plans:

- **Columbia City/Genesee/Hillman City**
- **Martin Luther King @ Holly**
- **North Beacon Hill**
- **North Rainier**
- **Rainier Beach**

Southeast Seattle's five neighborhood plans guide the City's investments. Highlights include: new and expanded libraries and parks; stronger business districts; new public art; and improvements in transportation and public safety. For instance, Beacon Hill, Rainier Beach and New Holly have new libraries, while the historic library in Columbia City was significantly expanded. All five neighborhoods have new or improved parks such as the renovated community center and park expansion at Jefferson Park, improvements to Bradner Gardens, and renovation of John C Little Park.

The Rainier Valley Community Development Fund was created by the community and elected officials to make sure that business owners would be compensated for the disruption directly caused by construction of the light rail. Long term, the fund will invest in projects that meet community needs and preserve the Rainier Valley's cultural diversity. The \$50 million fund is funded by the City of Seattle, Sound Transit, and King County, and is controlled by an independent board including southeast residents.

Looking ahead

These neighborhoods are changing. The City's investments combined with over \$500 million invested in converting public housing to mixed income communities and the City's first phase of light rail has stimulated private investment. Development in North Rainier and MLK @ Holly are under way and will start fulfilling the community's vision of great town centers.

The neighborhood plans and the Southeast Seattle Action Agenda call out the unique nature of these neighborhoods and promote a diverse and vibrant community where residents have access to high-quality housing, a full range of goods and services and economic opportunities. They want existing residents and businesses to benefit from the changes taking place and for the character of the area to be retained while bringing in new investments.

Community recommendations outlined in the neighborhood plans, the action agenda, and Link Light Rail Station Area Plans will continue to guide us as we improve transportation, public safety; support an economically and culturally diverse community; support youth and families; build stronger business districts; and create neighborhood centers that serve the residents.



Special feature: Chief Sealth Trail

The new Chief Sealth Trail connects Beacon Hill to Seattle's southern city limits and provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the Othello and Rainier Beach Link Light Rail stations. It was the result of community requests for investments in non-motorized transportation. The new trail is one of five regional trails that cross the city, connecting

to schools, businesses, and residents while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. The public-private collaboration between the City and a private contractor completed the trail ahead of schedule and below budget. The trail received regional and national awards for innovation and sustainability.

Building livable neighborhoods: Getting involved

Neighborhoods are created by people.

As we work toward completion of many of the projects laid out in our original neighborhood plans developed 10 years ago, we are looking ahead. We are planning to review current plans to determine the needs for updates, and we'd like your help.

From the longstanding advocates who have been involved in neighborhood planning for 20 years to the diverse immigrants who have arrived in our city during the past 10 years, we'd like all of you to get involved in some way with the neighborhood plan updates.

We will do our best to get the news out to everyone as each plan is slated for review. Some possible methods for communicating include: posting information at community centers, libraries and churches; holding public meetings; and checking the City's website, http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning.

Thank you for helping us make Seattle a terrific place to work, play and live.



Greenwood Park

Count for something important: U.S. Census Bureau

The Census Bureau is now recruiting for the 2010 Census. It offers great pay, flexible hours and paid training—with positions running from a couple of months to two years. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. For information, go to: <http://www.census.gov/rosea/www/employ.html>

Or call 1 (866) 861-2010.

Seattle Marathon coming this summer

The Rock 'n' Roll Seattle Marathon and Half Marathon is coming June 27, running from Tukwila to Seattle. Community members are invited to get involved if interested and also be aware of planned road closures. For information, visit <http://www.rnrseattle.com>.

Your Neighborhood's Future

Come share YOUR IDEAS about change, transportation and quality of life. Please join us at the meeting in your neighborhood — where light rail service will begin this year:

MLK AT HOLLY (OTHELLO)	N. RAINIER (MT. BAKER)	N. BEACON (BEACON HILL)
Saturday, March 14, 2009 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Miracle Temple of God 7100-42nd Avenue S.	Saturday March 21, 2009 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Franklin High School 3013 S. Mount Baker Blvd.	Saturday March 28 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. El Centro de la Raza 2524-16th Avenue S.

Interpreters will be available in the following languages: Oromifa, Amharic, Vietnamese, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tigrinya, Somali, Tagalog and Khmer. These venues are accessible, please contact us as soon as possible for special accommodations.

Luqadda Soomaaliga, Ahmed A O Scego (206) 604-0739

Vietnamese, Tiên Dương-Lê (206) 422-9398

Tagalog, Mars Rivera (206) 722-1722

Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, Pam Carter (206) 992-4851

Oromifa, Galmesa Elemo (206) 760-1621

粵語及國語, 江美霞 (425) 306-8749

ትግርኛ-ግዕዝ ናጳዝጊ, (206) 571-9905

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Onsite childcare and refreshments will be provided.

CAN'T COME TO THE MEETING? Log on, learn more and leave comments
www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning

For additional information on how you can be involved please contact:

Kerry Wade at the Department of Neighborhoods 206.733.9088 or kerry.wade@seattle.gov PO Box 94649 Seattle, WA 98124

Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple Awards Ceremony coming March 24

Mark your calendars! The next Small and Simple Awards Ceremony is scheduled for March 24, 6 p.m. at Ravenna Eckstein Community Center. The Fund accepts applications four times each year for projects that request up to \$15,000. Recipients to be honored later this month

I-5 Colonnade Mountain Bike Skills Park, Friends of Colonnade Trails, **\$15,000**

Festival of Trees, Plant Amnesty, **\$11,000**

Seward Park Playground Improvements, Seward Park Playground Improvement Foundation, **\$15,000**

Native American Women in Dialog on Infant Mortality Outreach, Native American Women in Dialog on Infant Mortality, **\$15,000**

Neighborhood Sustainability Report Card and Climate Action Program, Sustainable Seattle, **\$7,990**

Vision Greenwood Park, Vision Greenwood Park Planning Group, **\$15,000**

36th Ave. NE & NE 62nd Street Traffic Circle, Bryant Residents Against Thru Traffic, **\$6,802**

Carkeek Park Outdoor Art Exhibit, Carkeek Park Advisory Council, **\$9,650**

Edible Garden Fair and Tour, Southwest Community Harvest, **\$14,850**

Seattle Youth in Development Conference, Seattle Youth in Development Conference Planning Committee, **\$11,700**

Murals at South Lake High School, Urban Artworks, **\$2,170**

Carkeek Wildlife Demonstration Garden, Carkeek Watershed Community Action Project, **\$1,200**

Youth Out Loud, Youth Media Institute, **\$14,700**

Franklin High School Reader Board, Franklin Alumni Association and Foundation, **\$15,000**

Who are We? Exploring Ancestry and Identity Together, Northwest African American Museum/Friends of the Genealogy Center, **\$14,849**

Sustainable West Seattle Festival, Sustainable West Seattle, **\$14,935**

The Duwamish Diaries, Friends of the Duwamish/The Duwamish Tribe, **\$15,000**

Community Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary, Citizens for a Community Center at ML King, **\$12,600**

Free Tax Preparation Helps Workers Keep More of What They Earn and Avoid High Fees

The 'Free Tax Preparation Campaign,' is now being offered by United Way of King County at 15 sites through this coming April 15. The program is designed to help low and middle-income families prepare their income tax forms, take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other tax credits while avoiding fees associated with commercial tax preparers.

At the sites, customers will be able to sign up for public benefits such as financial education, utility assistance and the Washington Basic Food Program, which has recently widened eligibility requirements making it available to more residents.

The Earned Income Tax Credit is a federal tax program that reduces the amount of income tax owed by low to moderate income workers. The credit ranges from \$438 to \$4,824 depending on income and the number of qualifying children in a family.

Last year, United Way's Free Tax Prep Campaign filed 12,330 returns and brought back \$14.4 million in refunds to the community; \$4.6 million of which came from the Earned Income Tax Credit. Tax preparation services will be provided in multiple languages, including English, Chinese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Russian and Samoan by more than 300 IRS certified volunteers.

Taxpayers must bring photo identification and Social Security Cards (or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers) for themselves, spouses and dependents. They should also bring wage and earnings statements (Forms W-2), interest and dividend information concerning their income and expenses for the year of 2008.

For locations and more information, visit: <http://www.unitedwayofkingcounty.org/taxcampaign>.

Or call 2-1-1 or 1-800-621-4636.



Columbia City

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Volunteer, make a difference

Mayor Greg Nickels announced at the State of the City Speech a partnership with United Way of King County to engage 10,000 new volunteers in the city. Seattle has a rich tradition of volunteerism. In today's difficult times, it is more important than ever

to support volunteer efforts. For details, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/issues/volunteers/>. Or check the monthly calendar posted on the Department of Neighborhood's website for opportunities: <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods>.



Golden Gardens

Spring Clean Your Neighborhood

Spring is here and it's time for neighborhood beautification. Now in its 23rd year, Spring Clean is a citywide program that runs from April 4 to May 30. Projects include litter pickup, removal of invasive plants, weeding, graffiti removal, storm drain stenciling, and general upkeep of traffic circles and planting strips. Part of the Mayor's 'Clean and Green Seattle' initiative, participants are eligible for free resources from Seattle Public

Utilities, including tools, cleanup bags, gloves, safety vests and waste collection. For information, <http://www.seattle.gov/util> and search 'Spring Clean' or call (206) 233-7187.

Looking for youth-led projects

Summer is just around the corner! Do you have a great idea for a youth-led project that can reduce risk for violence and truancy, and increase school and work success? Neighborhood Matching Funds are available for innovative community-building projects by, for, and with youth! Apply now for summer projects in the next Small and Simple cycle. Deadline: April 6th. For details, visit our Matching Fund website or contact SuJ'n Chon, NMF Manager, at (206) 615-1600 or suj'n.chon@seattle.gov.



Neighborhood News now comes out quarterly

Neighborhood News is scheduled to be published quarterly, rather than every two months. Content will continue to highlight events and news happening in the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods (DON). Look for the monthly calendar on DON's website:

<http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods>



City of Seattle
Department of Neighborhoods

700 5th Ave. Suite 1700
P.O. Box 94649
Seattle, WA 98124-4649

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